

### **REMARKS**

This responds to the Office Action mailed on March 8, 2004. The specification is amended at page 3. In addition, claims 1, 3-6, 8-9, 11-12, 15 and 17-18 are amended such that claims 1-20 are now pending in this application. The amendments to the specification and claims are supported by FIGS. 1-3.

### **Formal Drawings**

Formal drawings are provided herewith. No amendments to the drawings have been made.

### **Examiner Interview**

Applicant's attorney, Andrew Peret, would like to thank Examiner Flanigan for his courtesy during the telephone interviews held on May 2 and May 6, 2004. Examiner Flanigan and Applicant's attorney discussed the cited references and claims. Examiner Flanigan indicated that the claims as amended herein are allowable over the cited art of record but stated that further searching would be required.

### **§102 and §103 Rejection of the Claims**

Claims 1-7, 12-14, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a, e) as being anticipated by Crocker et al. (U.S. 2003/0048608 A1).

Claims 8, 10, 11, 15, 18 and 19 were also rejected under 35 USC § 102(a, e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Crocker et al.

Claims 9 and 16 were also rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crocker et al.

As discussed during interview, claims 1, 8, 12 and 17 as amended herein overcome the above pending rejections. Claims 2-7, 9-11, 13-16 and 18-20 depend from respective claims 1, 8, 12 and 17 such that they incorporate all of the limitations of claims 1, 8, 12 and 17.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

Reservation of Right to file Continuation Application

Applicant respectfully traverses the pending 35 USC § 102 & 103 rejections. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application relating to any of the original and/or canceled claims at a later date. Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to traverse any statements in the Office Action relating to the rejections (e.g., under MPEP 2144.04 among other things). Applicant is expressly not admitting to any assertions made in the Office Action.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney, Andrew Peret at (262) 646-7009, or Applicant's below-named representative at (612) 349-9592 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

KAZIMIERZ L. KOZYRA ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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Date May 10, 2004

By Ann M. McCrackin  
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 10 day of May 2004.

KACIA LEE  
Name

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Signature